Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-12, 14-23, 25-41 are pending in the application. No claims have been allowed. Claims 1, 21, 22, 27, 33, 36, 37, 38, and 40 are independent. Claims 1, 21, 22, 27, 33, 36, 37, 38, and 40 have been amended. Claims 13 and 24 have been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice to renewal.

Cited Art

The Action cites U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0165727 to Green et al. ("Green") and U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0174000 to Katz et al. ("Katz").

Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for his time during the telephonic interview on September 22, 2005. Claims 1 and 24 were discussed. Applicants believe the interview was helpful and now present amended claims for further consideration. During the interview, the feature relating to selection from a menu in claim 24 was viewed in a favorable light. Applicants have added language to all independent claims regarding the selection from a menu feature, and have also clarified other aspects as recited. Accordingly, the claims are now allowable.

If any issues remain, Applicants request that the Examiner call to discuss options, in order to expedite prosecution.

IDS Reference Not Considered

Applicants submitted an IDS reference in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. However, the reference apparently was not considered (it was not initialed by the Examiner). The following is the reference that was apparently not considered:

IDS Dated	Reference
11/8/2002	Muench, *Building Oracle XML Applications*, O'Reilly & Associates, Inc., pp. 1-792, September 2000.

This reference was submitted in an IDS dated 11/8/2002, and later resubmitted on 11/9/2004. Applicants submit herewith Exhibit A, a postcard indicating that the reference was received. Applicants note that the reference is listed as an "Artifact" in an Image File Wrapper entry dated 11/12/2004. Applicants submit herewith Exhibit B a copy of the Artifact Sheet

referencing **artifact number 09925103Ba.** For convenience of the Examiner, Applicants enclose a separate 1449 form listing the reference.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the reference and initial the appropriate box in accordance with the procedure specified by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. *See also* MPEP § 609 ("An information disclosure statement filed in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98 will be considered by the examiner assigned to the application.").

Applicants also note that an IDS was submitted on 4/18/2005, which has not yet been considered. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references in the 4/18/2005 IDS.

103 Rejection

Patentability of Claims 1-12, 14-20, 21, 22-23, 25-26, 27-32, 33-35, 36, 37, 38-39, and 40-41 over Green in view of Katz under § 103(a)

The Action rejected claims 1-12, 14-20, 21, 22-23, 25-26, 27-32, 33-35, 36, 37, 38-39, and 40-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Green in view of Katz. Applicants respectfully submit the claims in their present form are allowable over the cited art.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. MPEP § 2142. Motivations to combine or modify references must come from the references themselves or be within the body of knowledge in the art. MPEP § 2143.01.

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify "accepting user input to assemble a set of the discrete executable directives into a schedulable executable sequence, wherein at least one of the discrete executable directives is selected from a menu," as well as other claim language. Amended claim 1 reads as follows (emphasis added):

> A computer-implemented method for presenting a user interface for construction of an executable sequence to automate a decision-making process based on a collection of data, the method comprising:
>
> displaying representations *in the user interface* of a plurality of discrete executable directives encapsulating *their respective* logic associated with the

decision-making process, wherein at least one of the discrete executable directives defines a query against the collection of data, at least one of the discrete executable directives defines an analysis directive to analyze information derived from the query, and at least one of the discrete executable directives defines a distribution directive to distribute information based on analysis performed by the analysis directive; and

accepting user input to assemble a set of the discrete executable directives into a *schedulable* executable sequence, *wherein at least one of the discrete executable directives is selected from a menu*, and wherein the executable sequence comprises:

at least one discrete executable directive defining a query against the collection of data,

followed at some time by at least one discrete executable analysis directive *operable to analyze information derived from the at least one discrete executable directive defining the query*,

followed at some time by at least one discrete executable distribution directive *operable to distribute information based on analysis performed by the at least one discrete executable analysis directive.*

Green's description of applications (Stovepipe Applications Levels to Layers) does not teach or suggest "accepting user input to assemble a set of the discrete executable directives into a schedulable executable sequence, wherein at least one of the discrete executable directives is selected from a menu" as recited in claim 1. For example, the Application at page 14, lines 18-25, Figs. 15N, 15O, and 15P, and original claim 24, describe selecting directives from a menu, and a user interface, as follows:

> To assist in creating sequences, a graphical user interface providing a list of menu options can be presented. Additionally, the user interface can be of a markup format (e.g., HTML) appropriate for presentation via a web browser. In this way, sequences can be created remotely or locally within the organization. A sequence can be assembled from pre-made processing directives, or the processing directives (e.g., a query) can be created as the sequence is created. In this way, a sequence can be built entirely by selecting menu options and filling in fields, rather than engaging in conventional code-based programming.

In addition, the Application describes scheduling at page 27, line 28 to page 28, line 6 and Figs. 15R and 15S as follows:

> Another aspect that can be particularly useful is scheduling execution of sequences. A scheduler can receive user input via a graphical user interface to run a sequence at a particular time or periodically (e.g., every hour, day, week, or month). The scheduler can include an interface for supplying binding information for sequences based on templates. For example, filters can be supplied when the sequence is scheduled.
> Scheduling can also be accomplished via an event directive. In this way, a sequence can itself schedule other sequences for execution.

The Application describes an exemplary executable sequence at page 13, lines 5-13 and Fig. 5 as follows:

> An exemplary arrangement 502 showing sequences is shown in FIG. 5. In the example, an environment stores a set of executable query directives 512, a set of executable analysis directives 522, and a set of executable distribution directives 532. The executable processing directives shown can be associated together into a sequence 542. In such an arrangement, when the sequence is executed, the query directive 512A is processed. The results of the query 512A are then provided to the analysis directive 522A, and the results of the analysis directive 522A are then provided to the analysis directive 522B. Finally, the results of the analysis directive 522B are provided to the distribution directive 532B.

Finally, the Application describes executable directives encapsulating their logic at page 65, lines 1-5, and original claim 13, as follows:

> One or more processing directives can be assembled into a sequence, with each processing directive performing a specific task in the sequence. In the example below, the directives are assembled into a sequence having unbound values, and the values are supplied when the sequence is scheduled. The processing directives are loosely coupled in that they encapsulate the logic related to their respective tasks.

Green describes "applications" as follows in paragraph [0092] and Fig. 2:

> In general, applications serve two primary purposes: (1) they perform routine business functions that support a business process; and (2) they access, process, and/or display data. At the highest level of abstraction, applications can then be organized by the functions they perform and the data they process. A representative diagram of an application is depicted on FIG. 2 as any of applications 202A-202N. Since an application is the building block of an information system, it can be expressed as a collection of software programs that execute user interface 204A, business rules 206A, and data access operations 208A, all of which are necessary to execute a business process. Typically, application 202A consists of a plurality of services that perform these operations. Services are any predefined, specialized results which are produced from specific software programs designed to perform explicit data processing operations when called upon. Services might be considered as either business logic services or infrastructure services. Business application services are designed and developed to provide specific computational, input/output, or data access operations when called upon at execution time, while infrastructure services provide computer platform operating systems, database management systems, or network platforms for supporting business applications.

Green describes, in the paragraph above, applications that "perform routine business functions that support a business process," and that "access, process, and/or display data." However, Green does not describe "accepting user input to assemble a set of the discrete executable directives into a schedulable executable sequence, wherein at least one of the discrete executable directives

is selected from a menu" as recited in claim 1.

Further, in Fig. 2, Green illustrates applications as having a user interface (e.g., 204A), business rules (e.g., 206A), and data access (e.g., 224A, 210A). Green never describes "accepting user input" or assembling "discrete executable directives" or selections from a "menu" as recited in claim 1.

Green's description of applications does not teach or suggest "displaying representations in the user interface of a plurality of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic associated with the decision-making process" as recited in claim 1. For example, the Application describes executable directives encapsulating their logic at page 65, lines 1-5, and original claim 13, as follows:

> One or more processing directives can be assembled into a sequence, with each processing directive performing a specific task in the sequence. In the example below, the directives are assembled into a sequence having unbound values, and the values are supplied when the sequence is scheduled. The processing directives are loosely coupled in that they encapsulate the logic related to their respective tasks.

Green describes that an application "can be expressed as a collection of software programs that execute user interface 204A." Green, paragraph [0092]. Green's description of applications that execute user interfaces does not describe "displaying representations in the user interface of a plurality of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic associated with the decision-making process" as recited in claim 1. In fact, Green never mentions "displaying representations ... of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic."

Katz's description of distributing data between two databases fails to teach or suggest "followed at some time by at least one discrete executable distribution directive operable to distribute information based on analysis performed by the at least one discrete executable analysis directive" as recited by claim 1. Katz describes distributing data between two databases in paragraph [0217]:

> In accordance with the present invention, discovery database 192 and analysis database 194 are types of relational databases. Although both internal data 30 and external data may be loaded into discovery database 192 and analysis database 194, the data preferably is distributed between the two databases, depending on which data must be used for report generation and OLAP analysis. The data stored in discovery database 192 is preferably mirrored in analysis database 194, and thus contains the same information but is aggregated and organized in a different format. In other words, the source data is the same, but it is arranged in

a different way and for different reasons: Preferably partial replication of data occurs in discovery database 192.

Katz merely describes that "data preferably is distributed between the two databases." Katz does not describe or suggest "followed at some time by at least one discrete executable distribution directive operable to distribute information based on analysis performed by the at least one discrete executable analysis directive" as recited by claim 1. In fact, Katz never mentions a "discrete executable distribution directive."

Finally, Applicants cannot find anywhere within Green or Katz a teaching or suggestion to modify the cited prior art references so as to result in the elements of claim 1 discussed above.

Because the cited references, individually or in combination, fail to describe at least one claim limitation of claim 1, Applicants believe that claim 1 is not subject to a § 103(a) rejection and request that the rejection be withdrawn. Thus, claim 1 should be allowable over the cited art.

Claims 2-12 and 14-20

Claims 2-12 and 14-20 depend on claim 1. Thus, at least for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1, claims 2-12 and 14-20 are in condition for allowance.

The Remaining Claims

Applicants have amended each of the remaining independent claims (21, 22, 27, 33, 36, 37, 38, and 40) to also reflect language regarding selection from a menu, and other language has also been clarified. Rather than belabor the language of each of these claims, Applicants point out that each claim recites a novel and non-obvious combination allowable over the cited art.

Similarly, the respective dependent claims 23, 25-26, 28-32, 34-35, 39, and 41 are allowable.

Request For Interview

If any issues remain, the Examiner is formally requested to contact the undersigned attorney prior to issuance of the next Office Action in order to arrange a telephonic interview. It is believed that a brief discussion of the merits of the present application may expedite prosecution. Applicants submit the foregoing formal Amendment so that the Examiner may fully evaluate Applicants' position, thereby enabling the interview to be more focused.

This request is being submitted under MPEP § 713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

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Conclusion

The claims in their present form should now be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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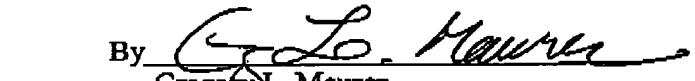
By 
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